# 1995

## Fall

NCNA *Journal*

20-4

# N.C. N.A.

# JOURNAL

Lot 1299, an 1825 Constantine Pattern Rouble fetched a record-breaking $99,000

# FALL 1995

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# NCNA JOURNAL

Volume 20 number 4 Fall 1995


## CONTENTS


1 President's Message
2. NCNA Convention Report
5. Computers in Numismatics Part 2 by Robert Schreiner
8. Coin Show Calendar
10. Constantine Rouble
12. Membership Application


## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

It is a great privilege to serve the NCNA and its members as president. I should start by thanking the many people who worked so hard on our recent convention in Greesboro.

Ted and Dot Hendrick always devote their time seflessly. Also, the local clubs furnished a number of diligent workers. Walter and Viola Braxton chaired the registration committee, and Vince Newsome handled the local publicity. John Wills and Forrest Michael ran a great auction.

The NCNA is well-served by its officers and directors. Thanks to all those who ran for those offices, including those who were not elected. Past President Paul Greene held a steady helm during his tenure and has left us in great shape for the future. Russ Southworth has been a stalwart as Secretary-Treasurer.

My main goal for the next year is to involve as many new faces as possible in the workings of NCNA. Steve Martin, who is taking over as advertising manager for the Journal, is an example. Welcome aboard.

We have a number of committiees whose membership is not limited to members of the board: Publicity, Convention Registration, Education, Scholarship, Auction, Membership, and the Speakers Bureau. We welcome volunteers and please don't dodge if drafted. Every new viewpoint helps.

We have surveyed dealers from the Greensboro conventions for suggestions and certainly welcome them from our members.

Will Jordan

# 1995 NCNA CONVENTION

## SUNSHINE AT THE VILLAGE GREEN

The 37th Annual Coin Show and Convention of the North Carolina Numismatic Association was the largest in several years. Held from September 28th through October 1st at the Village Green off Meadowview Road off Randleman Road near the intersection of Interstates 85 and 40 in Greensboro.

The bourse filled the stately ballroom with dealers coming from as far away as NewJersey, Florida and Alabama along with our regulars from the neighboring states of Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee. North Carolina itself was well represented with over a dozen dealers

Betty Clark
Joanne Southworth
and Tessie Michael
manning the
registration
table

Attendance doubled from the previous year, for which we don't have records, and was certainly larger than any convention in several years. Our thanks to Viola and Walter Braxton who chaired the Registration Comrnittee and were assisted by Joanne Southworth, Tessie Michaels, and Betty Clark.

ANA Governor J. T. Stanton visited the convention on Friday and Saturday bringing a touch of the national organization's interest to local and regional affairs. We're certain he carried and earful and several valuable suggestions back to ANA

J. T. presented the educational program: Cherry Picker's Special, New Cherries to Pick. Co-author of The Cherry Pickers' Guide to Numismatics J. T. talked about the many new varieties being reported by sharp eyed numismatists across the country. His talk was illustrated by detailed slides and was given to a packed meeting room with audience overflowing into the hall.

The bourse was a family affair with several dealers bringing wives and or children to participate in the festivities.

Bringin' 'em up right: Jim Sazama and his son

Jerry Roughton at the table of East Tennessee Coins withClaude and Charlotte Tolliverlooking on.

Exhibits were presented by eight exhibitors including one newcomer. The judges worked hard at their task. Awards were won by Russ Southworth for his Pilgrim Heritage medals exhibit and Halbert Carmichael for his Selection of Bird Coins. NCNA owes thanks to Autence Bason for making arrangements for the exhibiting and judging. Autence asks that exhibitors let her know their plans a little earlier at future shows. *(Eds. Note: I plead guilty.)*

Continued Next Page

An auction of donated materials was held late Saturday afternoon. John Wills and Bob Hoadley made the arrangements, and Forrest Michael served as auctioneer. The auction proceeds help to support the NCNA's activities, such as this Journal.

Christopher and Donna Brannif of Blacksburg SC
along with Bill Bridges of Greensboro at the reception

A pizza reception arranged by Dot Hendrick and was held on Saturday evening after the bourse closed. Good food and fellowship was shared by a crowd of fifty. Mary Margaret Munn, and Tessie Michael helped Dot.

The Awards Ceremony chaired by President Paul Greene followed. The Bason Literary Award was presented to Mark Smith of Conover by committee chairman, Bob Hoadley. Mark wrote the multipart article on Collecting by Variety that has appeared over several years in this Journal.

The reception ended with the swearing in of the newly elected North Carolina Numismatic Association officers for 1996. They are:

Will Jordan, Flat Rock, President
Halbert Carmichael, Raleigh, 1st Vice President
Forrest Michael, Lexington, 2nd Vice President
Autence Bason, Greensboro, Director
Dale Berube, Winston-Salem, Director
Clark White, Greensboro, Director

These hard working people deserve your support. Be ready with suggestions and help when a task needs doing.

The new officers: Left to right: Dale Berube, Autence Bason, Will Jordan, Forrest Michael, Halbert Carmichael, Clark White, Russ Southworth

The Village Green location seems to work out so well that NCNA will return next year and hopes to make this a permanent home. Director of Conventions has appointed Cy Dellinger as Assistant Bourse Chairman for 1996.

Passing the torch 1996 President Will Jordan with 1995 President Paul Greene

We'll see you all next year at the Village Green, Greensbor on September 28, 29 and 30th for the 38th anniversary convention of the North Carolina Numismatic Association.

# The Internet, World Wide Web, and the Coin Collector

Bob Schreiner

*Editor's Note: The figure from Part 1 was left out by the printer and the following paragraph by the editor:*

The ANA home pages

The American Numismatic Association -- a nonprofit, educational organization chartered by Congress -- is dedicated to the collection and study of coins, paper money, tokens and medals, and was created for the benefit of its members and the numismatic community.

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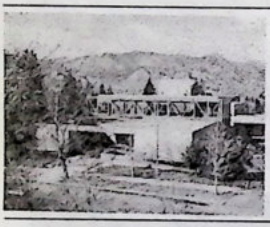

**Annual Convention in Anaheim CA, August 16-19, 1995**

Tentative Schedule of Convention Events
Numismatic Theatre Schedule

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If you have questions or comments about this site, please send a message to mitty@pcsdcr.com

ANA MISSION STATEMENT
LEARN WITH ANA, ACT WITH KNOWLEDGE

*Editor's note: the following paragraph was also left out of the previous part.*

What 's at the ANA Web site? There are several useful bits of information, briefly described in the list of links in the figure. Many of links provide basic information about the ANA. The "FTP Site" is a repository of computer files that can be transferred to your local computer using an Internet file transfer tool called simply File Transfer Protocol, or FTP. Among other items, there are electronic pictures of coins. As newsletter editor for the Raleigh Coin Club, I sometimes use these to decorate the newsletter. Even more important, in my opinion, is an update of the ANA library catalog. After I "downloaded" this file, I can use it with my PC's word processor to search for new books I wish to borrow from the library. I find this very useful.

## PART 2 USENET NEWS

Before I try to define usenet news, or just news, I must assume that you know what electronic mail is. Electronic mail is basically the ability to send a message from one computer user to another--an electronic equivalent of the postal service. People with Internet access have electronic addresses: a personal name on a computer system linked to the Internet. For instance, my Internet email address is rschrein@nando.net. rschrein stands for me (unfortunately, I could use only 8 letters), and nando.net is the computer system I use, in this case a commercial Internet service of the Raleigh News and Observer newspaper. If you have access to Internet electronic mail, and you know my address, you can send me email. Email consists of the ability to send one-on-one messages: I can send directly to you, and you can reply to me. News, on the other hand, is the ability to send a message to a large number of computer correspondents who voluntarily have banded together in some common interest. The common interest is called a "news group." There are thousands of them. The most relevant to the coin collector is one called rec.collecting.coins. The name is made up of narrowing areas of interest: rec, for recreation, is the broadest; under it are many other groups, for example, collecting. Under collecting there is stamps, dolls, etc., as well as coins.

As a "subscriber" to news group rec.collecting.coins, I can read all "articles" that members "post." I can "reply" to articles by posting to the news group or by sending the individual member email, as I see fit. There are several uses of news group rec.collecting.coins. Members:

ask questions about coins they have, especially about identification and value
offer items for sale
seek items wanted
announce shows and meetings
announce additional electronic forums of interest to coin collectors
ask questions or offer information about almost anything in numismatics

Membership in rec.collecting.coins is diverse. The ANA posts its Money Talks programs. Kenneth Bressett, current ANA vice president, occasionally posts messages. Alan Herbert, well known author of Numismatic News' Coin Clinic, answers many questions. This news group is only a few months old. By the nature of the postings, it appears to me that the members are for the most part not advanced collectors.

Coming in the next issue:

An assessment of the usefulness to a coin collector.
How to attach

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# COIN SHOW CALENDAR

LOCAL CHAIRMEN PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR, Box 5625, Raleigh, NC 27650 of your plans as soon as possible to avoid conflicts. Information transmitted in writing is safer, but between issues inquiries and information can be recieved during evening hours at 919-832-4128. or during business hours at 919-515-2995.

**DEC1995**

1-3 Crab State Coin & Stamp Expo, Ramada Hotel, New Carrolton MD, Paul Singleton, 444 Maple Ave, Vienna VA 22180

2-3 Shenandoah Valley Coin Club, Expoland, Fisherville VA, James A. Ryder, 806 Mona Cir., Staunton VA 24401

7-10 Suburban Washington Baltimore, Convetion Center, Baltimore MD, Gordon Berg, Box 1876, Rockville MD 20850, 301-424-1876

**JAN 1996**

4-7 FUN, Convention Center, Orlando FL, Cindy Grellman, Box 951988, Lake Mary FL 32948, 407-321-8747

13-14 Carolina Coin & Stamp Conventions, Holshouser Bldg, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh NC, Ted Hendrick, Box 12052, Raleigh NC 27605

27-29 Double Tree Inn, Meridian Pkwy off ext 278 I-40, Durham NC, Barry Ciociola, 5111 Russell Rd., Durham NC 27712

**FEB 1996**

3-4 Piedmont Triad Coin & Stamp Show, American Legion Hall, Creek Ridge Rd., Greensboro NC, Linda Pridgen, Box 10678, Greensboro NC 27404

16-18 Charlotte Coin Club, Merchandise Mart, Charlotte NC, Ralph Janelli, Box 33292, Charlotte NC 28233

23-25 Greenville Coin Club, Holiday Inn, Roper Mtn. Rd., Greenville SC. Don McAlister, 2207 W. Parker Rd., Greenville SC 29611

24-25 Charlotte Stamp Expo, Days Inn Woodlawn, Charlotte, Richard Canupp, 5534 South Blvd, Charlotte NC 28217

**MAR 1996**

9-10 Shenandoah Valley Coin Club, Expoland, Fisherville VA, James A. Ryder, 806 Mona Cir., Staunton VA 24401

16-17 Carolina Coin & Stamp Conventions, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh NC, Ted Hendrick, Box 12052, Raleigh NC 27605

21-24 Suburban Washington, Convention Center, Baltimore MD, Gorden Berg, Box 1876, Rockville MD 20850

21-24 Tennessee State Numismatic Society, Days Inn, Ext 1, I-75, Chattanooga TN

**MAY 1996**

4-5 Winston-Salem Coin Club, Elk Lodge, Silas Crk. Pkwy, Winston-Salem, Dale Berube, Box 30106, Winston-Salem NC 27130

4-5 Charlotte Stamp Expo, Days Inn Woodlawn, Charlotte, Richard Canupp, 5534 South Blvd, Charlotte NC 28217

11-12 Piedmont Triad Coin & Stamp Show, American Legion Hall, Creek Ridge Rd., Greensboro NC, Linda Pridgen, Box 10678, Greensboro NC 27404

16-18 Georgia Numismatic Assn, Int'l Convention & Trade Center, Atlanta GA, Jack Hancock, Box 550309, Atlantal GA 30355

31- Jun 1 Parker Coin Club, Holiday Inn, Roper Mtn. Rd., Greenville SC, Don McAlister, 2207 W. Parker Rd., Greenville SC 29611

**JUN 1996**

7-9 Carolina Coin & Stamp Conventions, Merchandise Mart, Charlotte NC, Ted Hendrick, Box 12052, Raleigh NC 27605

29-30 Raleigh Coin Club, Scott Bldg, St. Fairgrounds, Raleigh NC, Halbert Carmichael,

**JUL 1996**

13-14 Piedmont Triad Coin & Stamp Show, American Legion Hall, Creek Ridge Rd., Greensboro NC, Linda Pridgen, Box 10678, Greensboro NC 27404

**AUG 1996**

22-25 Blue Ridge Numismatic Assn, NW Georgia Trade Center, Dalton GA, Halbert Carmichael, Box 5625, Raleigh NC 27650

**SEP 1996**

13-15 Carolina Coin & Stamp Conventions, Merchandise Mart, Charlotte NC, Ted Hendrick, Box 12052, Raleigh NC 27605

27-29 North Carolina Numismatic Association, Village Green, W. Meadowview, Greensboro NC, Ted Hendrick, Box 12052, Raleigh NC 27605

28-29 Charlotte Stamp Expo, Days Inn Woodlawn, Charlotte, Richard Canupp, 5534 South Blvd, Charlotte NC 28217

**OCT 1996**

5-6 Piedmont Triad Coin & Stamp Show, American Legion Hall, Creek Ridge Rd., Greensboro NC, Linda Pridgen, Box 10678, Greensboro NC 27404

**NOV 1996**

16-17 Carolina Coin & Stamp Conventions, Holshouser Bldg, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh NC, Ted Hendrick, Box 12052, Raleigh NC 27605

# THE CONSTANTINE ROUBLE

The Coin for the Monarch Who Wasn't

Our cover photo is the 1825 pattern rouble of Constantine. The photo is courtesy of Bowers & Merena Auctions which sold the coin for $99,000 in their 1994 Massachusetts Historical Society Sale and the following is based in part on their news release. The coin is the product of mint officials who were, of all things, too efficient. They prepared a coin for the monarch that wasn't. The most comparable coins are the patterns prepared for King Edward VIII of Britain one hundred years later.

On November 19, 1825, Czar Alexander I, of Russia died leaving no children to ascend the throne. Next in line for the throne was Constantine, Alexander's next oldest brother. Constantine had served in the Russian Army. Personally brave, he seems to have been an indifferent general. On two occasions Constantine had renounced his right to the throne and professed allegiance to Nicholas, his younger brother, without telling either Nicholas or the mint. This act seems to have been in part due to Constantine's close association with the Grand Duchy of Poland. Soon after Alexander I died, mint officials made the logical assumption that Constantine would become the new Czar. They quickly began work on designing and creating dies for a silver rouble coin of the new czar. Five pieces are believed to have been struck with an incuse lettered edge. The edge lettering is lightly impressed on all five extant specimens.

Once it became known to mint officials that Constantine had declined the throne in favor of his younger brother Nicholas (who became known as Nicholas I), the officials quickly gathered up the five lettered edge specimens, sealed them in a box and

deposited them with Minister of Finance E. F. Kankrin.

In June 1879, Czar Alexander II learned of the existence of these coins and commanded that they be brought to him. The Czar kept one piece for himself, gave a second to the Hermitage, and gave one each to Grand Duke Mikhailovich, Grand Duke Alexandrovich, and Prince Alexander of Hesse. Of the three pieces listed above, three are in museums today. The one given to the Hermitage is still there. The piece originally kept by Czar Alexander II eventually found its way to the State Historical Museum in Moscow . The coin originally given to Grand Duke Mihailovich was eventually donated to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C. where it presently reposes.

Only two pieces are available to collectors. One was last offered for sale at public auction in November of 1965 in a Hans M. F. Schulman auction in New York City. Its present location unknown to us today. It was supposedly sold to a French collector "P. R." It is believed that Schulman used a picture of the Hermitage specimen in his auction catalogue, rather than the one he was offering for sale, as it was finer than the specimen he was actually selling. This has been confirmed by officials at the Hermitage and is an interesting but little known fact.

It has generally been accepted that the specimen which appeared in an 1898 auction presented by the firm of L & L Hamburger of Frankfurt, Germany, could not be traced from that point. Bowers and Merena are convinced that the piece that offered in 1994 was in fact the same coin that was sold in 1898, property of the consignor, Mr. Pettinati. This eventually became the property of Virgil Brand and was inherited by his brother Horace. On October 16, 1964, it was consigned to the joint auction conducted by Adolph Hess and Bank Leu, in Lucerne and sold as Lot 1568 for 38,100 Swiss

Continued Next Page

francs, to Sol Kaplan, probably acting as agent for his colleague Abe Kosoff. Upon Kosoff's death in 1983, the Constantine rouble became the property of his daughter, who consigned it to Auction by Bowers and Merena last summer.

It is a simple matter to confirm that the specimen offered in 1994 was the same as that offered in the 1964 Hess/Bank Leu sale. The ridges in the ear on the present coin have the same striking peculiarities as the coin pictured on the cover of the 1964 auction catalogue. But even more conclusive is the fact that there is a small "mark" (which is actually a planchet defect) below the 8 in the date, which is identical. The 1898 Hamburger auction catalogue illustrated the specimen there offered with a photograph of a plaster cast of the rouble. This was a common practice at the time, probably due to the inability to show acceptable detail in photographs of the coins themselves. As this was a cast of the coin, detail was obviously lost, but the same lack of ear detail and traces of the mark below the 8. It may be the case that the weakness at the center of this coin implies that it may have been one of the first struck before the correct die spacing was determined. We have seen detailed photographs of the Smithsonian specimen and the Hermitage specimen, and they both exhibit sharp detail in this area. Unfortunately, it is not possible to tell what characteristics the Schulman coin might have had.

Constantine, incidentally, continued as Grand Duke in charge of Poland and seems to have had a checkered career. Not quite keeping up with the times and the temper of the people he was faulted by the Czarist government for revolts in which he had no part and yet never bacame a hero to the Poles.

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